

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3936

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAKAR 1104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CN, SG

SUBJ COMORAN FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS DAKAR

REF: PARIS 03363

SUMMARY : COMORAN FOREIGN MINISTER CLAIMS HE HAS PROMISE OF
SIGNIFICANT SENEGALESE SUPPORT AND SAYS COMOROS COUNTING
ON PRESIDENT SENGHOR TO INTERVENE WITH FRANCE ON
MAYOTTE QUESTION. DURING FEB. 17-19 VISIT HE PUBLICLY
EXPRESSED THANKS TO GOS FOR SUPPORTING COMORAN INDEPENDENCE WITH-
IN COLONIAL BORDERS. PRESIDENT SENGHOR EARLIER TOLD
AMBASSADOR HE WAS PRESSURING FRENCH TO BE MORE FORTH-
COMING IN ASSISTANCE TO COMOROS. END SUMMARY.

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1. COMORAN FOREIGN MINISTER MOUZAOIR ABDALLAH VISITED

DAKAR FEB. 17-19 DURING AFRICAN TOUR WHICH HE INDICATED WAS INTENDED TO EXPLAIN TO "BROTHER GOVERNMENTS" SITUATION IN COMORO ISLANDS SINCE BREAKING OF "ORGANIC AND INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS" WITH FRANCE. ABDALLAH ALSO WAS REPORTEDLY SEEKING FOREIGN AID AND POLITICAL SUPPORT. ON ARRIVAL, ABDALLAH SAID SENEGALESE WERE WELL-INFORMED ON COMORAN DEVELOPMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGED PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR COMORAN CAUSE, AND EXPRESSED VIEW THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD BECOME "MORE INTENSE, FRUITFUL AND INTERESTING." GOS MINISTER OF PLAN AND COOPERATION LED SENEGALESE SIDE IN WORKING SESSION WITH ABDALLAH, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY COMORAN MINISTER OF EDUCATION. PRIME MINISTER ALSO RECEIVED VISITORS. ABDALLAH, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD VISITED AFRICAN CAPITALS INCLUDING ABIDJAN, NAIROBI, LIBREVILLE AND LAGOS, DEPARTED DAKAR FOR ALGIERS.

2. IN INTERVIEW ACCORDED LOCAL JOURNALIST JUST BEFORE DEPARTURE, ABDALLAH STATED THAT GOS HAD EXPRESSED ITS WILLINGNESS TO GIVE SIGNIFICANT HELP TO COMOROS. HE SAID SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR IN PARIS ALREADY HAD PROVIDED APPRECIABLE ASSISTANCE TO 7,000 COMORANS IN FRANCE. ABDALLAH EXPRESSED THANKS TO GOS FOR RECOGNIZING THAT COMOROS ARE INDEPENDENT IN THEIR COLONIAL BORDERS (I.E. INCLUDING MAYOTTE), HE DECLARED THAT SENEGALESE POSITION ON THAT POINT WAS FIRM AND WITHOUT AMBIGUITY. ABDALLAH SAID COMOROS WERE COUNTING ON CERTAIN AFRICAN CHIEFS OF STATE, ABOVE ALL SENGHOR, TO LEAD FRANCE TO SEE REASON (IN RESOLVING MAYOTTE QUESTION). HE SAID COMORANS DO NOT WANT TO BREAK WITH FRENCH, BUT THERE WILL BE NO ACCORD WITH FRENCH GOVERNMENT UNTIL MAYOTTE PROBLEM IS SETTLED.

3. COMMENT: ON JAN. 22, DURING VISIT OF FRENCH MINISTER OF COOPERATION JEAN DE LIPKOWSKI, PRESIDENT SENGHOR TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT GOS HAD TAKEN POSITION OPPOSING FRENCH POLICY IN COMORO ISLANDS. AT THAT TIME (PRIOR TO ENSUING CONTRE-TEMPS OVER FEB. 8 MAYOTTE REFERENDUM), SENGHOR EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN EFFORTS TO PERSUADE DE LIPKOWSKI TO GIVE MORE ASSISTANCE TO COMOROS. IN HIS CUSTOMARY PURSUIT OF "DIALOGUE," SENGHOR (WHO WAS OUT OF COUNTRY DURING ABDALLAH VISIT) MAY WELL ENVISAGE

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MEDIATING ROLE FOR HIMSELF BETWEEN FRENCH AND COMORANS. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN GOOD OFFICES RELATIONSHIP WITH BOTH SIDES, SENEGALESE SUPPORT FOR COMORAN POSITION WILL PROBABLY BE LOW-PROFILE.

AGGREY

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